



West Virginia Rural Development



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JULY 2004

Hilda Legg Visits Mountain State Once Again

Hilda Gay Legg, RUS Administrator, and WV Rural Development State Director Jenny N. Phillips attended the first-ever electronic town hall meeting of counties in the Nick Joe Rahall II High Technology Corridors Programs area, where individuals discussed the need for and merits of cooperation, new thinking and using high-tech communications.

Through West Virginia Public Broadcasting and Verizon facilitation, Rahall and keynote speaker Legg spoke from Concord University to community leaders, state politicians, educators and others at video conference sites in Athens, Bluefield, Beckley, Welch, Marlinton, Fayetteville, Summersville and Lewisburg.

“We must work together to ensure that there exists a vibrant telecommunications system in WV that is second-to-none so that our companies can compete, our students can learn, and our citizens can participate in an ever-changing global society,” stated Rahall.

Joining Rahall, Legg and Phillips were Mary Hunt-Lieving, Program Officer with Pittsburgh-based Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, and Bobby Lewis, Community Development Director of the West Virginia Development Office.

PHOTO: Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II, and Hilda Gay Legg, RUS Administrator

Legg’s three-point strategy for getting rural communities to move into the future includes awareness, alliance and innovation.

“Rural communities are the building blocks of our country...It’s time rural Americans were paid for their initiative and hard work. Demographics should not determine prosperity,” Legg said.

The Rural Development program has an \$86 billion loan portfolio, according to Legg. About \$30 billion has been invested in the past three years. Of that, Legg says \$148 million has been in West Virginia.

Participants on the steering committee that made possible this first-in-a-

series videoconference include the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, 4-C Economic Development Authority, Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Authority, Rahall Transportation Institute at Marshall University, Region I and Region IV Planning and Development Councils, Region I Work Force Investment Board, and Rahall Center for Economic Development and Research at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Legg also stated that “It’s time to stop apologizing and promote what we have. It’s time to start telling the good stories.”

“Fund regionally, act locally, compete globally” is what Legg proclaims her formula for restoring vibrancy of rural communities.



Fountain Springs Industrial Park Expands

Two new small businesses need to be added to the Fountain Springs Industrial Park's sign in Peterstown, WV.

Forensic Computers.com develops and designs computer security systems. This business is moving to the area from Kanawha County. When it is fully open, it will have 30 employees.

West Virginia Natural Exports produces high quality wood products from WV hardwoods.

The Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation financed the development of the Fountain Springs Industrial Park in part with

a \$150,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant. The 22 acre park is located adjacent to Route 219, three miles north of Peterstown in Monroe County. The Park's 30,000 square foot multi-tenant building currently houses four new businesses which bring much

needed employment to this part of the state.

Also located in the building are M-Rock, a producer of manufactured stone for building facades and Vision Graphics, a producer of



PHOTO: Fountain Springs Multi-Tenant Building

Multi-Family Housing Program Shines

Fiscal Year 2004 - Multi-Family Housing has four Section 538 projects in process. Upon completion, the projects will have a total of 168 family units and 48 elderly units. The total development cost of these four projects is \$13,417,702 with guarantees totaling \$6,680,000. The projects are located in Lewisburg, Weston, St. Albans, and Princeton.

The jewel shining in Multi-Family Housing's crown this year is the new Section 538 elderly project being constructed in St. Albans, Kanawha County, WV.

Knollview Village Apartments will be one of the few elderly projects in the nation this year.

It is a faith-based not-for-profit elderly project consisting of 48 units and is the product of the Religious Coalition for Community Renewal.

The Religious Coalition for Community Renewal is a Charleston area

religious organization consisting of thirty ecumenical religious congregations representing over 25,000 parishioners.

Following is a breakdown of the four projects:

Spruce Cove Apartments
 ~56 Units
 ~Total Cost \$3,317,949
 ~Total Guarantee \$1,650,000
 ~Family Interest Credit

Quarry Glenn Apartments
 ~56 Units
 ~Total Cost \$3,317,844
 ~Total Guarantee \$1,640,000
 ~Family Interest Credit

Knollview Village Apartments
 ~48 Units
 ~Total Cost \$3,091,058
 ~Total Guarantee \$1,600,000
 ~Family Interest Credit

Pauli Heights Apartments
 ~56 Units
 ~Total Cost \$3,690,851.28
 ~Total Guarantee \$1,790,000
 ~Family Interest Credit

business signs that performs silk screen printing.

These four firms employ 20 and have the immediate potential to employ an additional 22. That figure will only increase with future expansion.

The success of the present phase of the park's development has prompted Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation to plan for the development of a second building at the site.



PHOTO: Fountain Springs Industrial Park's current sign

Self-Help Home Build Turns Dream Into A Reality



June was Homeownership Month and one of the many activities this Fiscal Year was a Self-Help Home Build in Martinsburg, WV. Staff members from Telamon (Self-Help Grantee), NCALL and Rural Development, along with the homeowners/borrowers, worked on building a home for a day.

When the additional volunteers are not present, there are four different families helping each other build their homes under this Self-Help Program.

On this particular day, near disaster struck when the electric generator quit working. However, two dedicated federal employees, Craig Burns and Scott Mullin of RD, saved the day by working feverishly to fix the machinery, allowing the workers to continue turning this homeowner's dream into a reality.

Rural Utilities Programs Announces Fiscal Year 2004 Loan and Grant Obligations

The mission of the Rural Utilities Programs is to help improve the quality of life and promote economic development in Rural America. It does this by administering USDA's rural utilities and community facilities loan and grant programs with a service oriented approach.

Water and Waste disposal loan and grant programs are used to develop water and waste disposal (including solid waste disposal and storm drainage) systems in rural areas and towns with populations not in excess of 10,000. These funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, Indian tribes, and corporations not operated for profit.

USDA Rural Utilities Programs also guarantees loans made by banks and other eligible lenders. These loan and grant funds help to reduce water and

waste disposal costs to a reasonable level for rural users.

Community Facilities loan and grant programs provide assistance in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services ensuring that these types of facilities are readily available to all rural communities.

Three-quarters through Fiscal Year 2004, Rural Utilities Programs in West Virginia has obligated \$18,751,000 in water and wastewater loan funds and \$8,051,360 in grant funds.

These funds stem from Rural Utilities Programs Initial Allocations, National Office Reserve Funds, Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants,

and Enterprise Zone/Enterprise Community funds for vital water and wastewater projects throughout the state of West Virginia.

In addition, the Community Facilities program has allocated \$88,000 in grant money.

To date, 18 counties and 9,812 rural West Virginians have benefited from Rural Utilities loan and grant assistance.

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